

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Applicant's claims 1-12 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,850,784 (hereinafter "SanGiovanni").

The Examiner also rejected dependent claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SanGiovanni in view of U.S. Patent 6,549,789 (hereinafter "Kfoury").

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended the claims, as reflected under the heading Listing of Claims beginning on page 2 of this paper, in order to more particularly define Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant has also prepared a response, respectively traversing the Examiner's rejections.

Applicant's Reply to the Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by SanGiovanni. The Examiner also rejected dependent claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SanGiovanni in view of Kfoury. Applicant has proposed amending the claims, as reflected under the heading Listing of Claims beginning on page 2 of this paper. In addition, Applicant submits the following remarks wherein the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's claimed invention is a portable terminal. More particularly, Applicant's claimed invention is a portable terminal that provides a first housing having a display unit and a second housing having a primary input unit, wherein the first housing and the second housing are connected together at a common joint. The first and second housings are permitted to rotate about the common joint of their connection, permitting a user to switch the portable terminal's mode of operation from an open state to a closed state and vice versa.

Regardless of the mode of operation, the display unit of the first housing is continuously viewable by the user. However, portable terminal functions (e.g., e-mail, camera, web, etc.) provided on the selection screen displayed on the display unit of the first housing is altered when the portable terminal's mode of operation is switched. Allowing the arrangement of portable terminal functions on the selection screen to be dependent upon the mode of operation allows the user to use an alternate input means of accessing and executing in the closed state the same mobile terminal functions that would be available to the user in the open state.

In the portable terminal's open state mode of operation, the primary input unit on the second housing of the portable terminal is exposed and may be used in conjunction with the portable terminal functions provided on the selection screen displayed on the display unit of the first housing. For instance, this mode of operation may utilize a selection screen that arranges portable terminal functions multi-dimensionally. This multi-dimensional arrangement is easily accessible using the primary input unit on the second housing of the portable terminal.

In the portable terminal's closed state mode of operation, an auxiliary input unit is made available along the side surfaces of the first housing and the second housing for operation in conjunction with the portable terminal functions provided on the selection screen displayed on the display unit of the first housing. The auxiliary input unit serves as an alternate means of accessing and executing portable terminal functions when the portable terminal is in its closed state and the primary input unit is no longer accessible to the user. When the portable terminal is in its closed state, portable terminal functions are arranged on the selection screen in a manner that permits them to be navigable using the auxiliary input unit. For instance, this mode of operation may utilize a selection screen that arranges portable terminal functions one-dimensionally.

Independent Claims 1 & 9

In rejecting Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9, the Examiner asserts that all of the elements of these claims are shown in SanGiovanni. *Office Action, Pages 2-3 and 4-5*. However, Applicant respectfully submits that SanGiovanni fails to show or suggest the use of different selection screens that are made dependent upon the mode of operation of a mobile terminal, which are suitable for continuous operation by different accessible means of input.

The Examiner specifically refers to column 6, lines 6-64 to show that SanGiovanni teaches the aforementioned limitations of Applicant's claimed invention. Yet,

contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the limitations of Applicant's claimed invention are not shown. SanGiovanni describes a mobile terminal capable of providing a display unit that can be easily detached or swiveled in a plurality of viewing orientations, which can allow the mobile terminal to be adaptable to users that are left-handed and right-handed. Viewing orientations is the essence of SanGiovanni and it is this subject matter that is specifically described in detail in column 6, lines 6-64 of SanGiovanni.

Moreover, none of the drawings or other unidentified parts of the description in SanGiovanni teach the aforementioned selection screen limitations of Applicant's claimed invention. Every drawing figure provided in SanGiovanni is clearly described in conjunction with a viewing orientation or a means for detaching the two housings. Not a single drawing figure in SanGiovanni depicts an alternate input means or a mobile terminal in its closed state as provided in Applicant's claimed invention. Since SanGiovanni fails to describe or depict the rearrangement of mobile terminal functions on a selection screen to accommodate for accessibility by different input units when the mobile terminal is switched from an open state to a closed state mode of operation, it can not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention.

Dependent Claims 4 & 5

In rejecting Applicant's dependent claim 4, the Examiner asserts that Kfoury teaches a control device which switches a display screen on said display unit, wherein the control device switches between a first selection screen and a second selection screen in accordance with a state detected by a state detecting device. *Office Action, Page 7-8*. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kfoury does not disclose a control device switching between the first selection screen, which is appropriate for operation by the auxiliary input unit, and the second selection screen, which is appropriate for operation by the main input unit, in accordance with a state detected by the state detecting device. Not only does Kfoury fail to teach switching between selection screens based on the state detected, but Kfoury is also completely silent about the essential feature of Applicant's claimed invention - i.e., selection screens.

There is no disclosure whatsoever in Kfoury regarding selection screens or the rearrangement of mobile terminal functions on such screens in conjunction with the detection of the mode of operation of a mobile terminal. In light of the aforementioned, dependent claim 4, and dependent claim 5 which depends therefrom, are not obvious to those skilled in the art at the time of the invention. Furthermore, Applicant's earlier discussion of SanGiovanni's failure to

teach all the limitations of independent claim 1 applies with equal force to the rejection of dependent claims 4 and 5. Claims 4 and 5 depend from independent claim 1 and so they necessarily include all the limitations of the independent claim. Therefore, the combination of SanGiovanni and Kfoury is deficient in this respect as well to establish a showing of obviousness.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention as defined by independent claim 1, claims 2 through 8 which depend therefrom, and independent claim 9, claims 10 through 12 which depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.

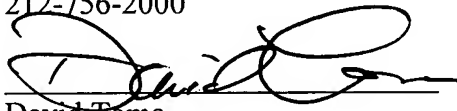
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that this patent application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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